

MINUTES
Crested Butte Town Council
Regular Council Meeting
January 3, 2012
Council Chambers, Crested Butte Town Hall

Mayor Aaron Huckstep called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Councilmembers present: Jim Schmidt, John Wirsing, Glenn Michel, Shaun Matusewicz, Roland Mason and David Owen. Staff Present: Town Manager Susan Parker, Town Attorney John Belkin, Town Clerk Eileen Hughes, Public Works Director Rodney Due (for part of the meeting), Parks and Recreation Director Jake Jones (for part of the meeting), Design Review Coordinator Molly Minneman (for part of the meeting) and Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager Matt Peacock (for part of the meeting).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mason moved and Wirsing seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with all voting "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation Of The Town Of Crested Butte, Colorado Proclaiming Friday, January 13, 2012 "Jack Duryea Day."

Mayor Huckstep read the Proclamation. Matusewicz moved and Wirsing seconded to approve a proclamation proclaiming Friday, January 13, 2012 "Jack Duryea Day." A roll call vote was taken with Mason, Owen, Matusewicz, Huckstep, Wirsing and Schmidt voting "Yes" and Michel voting "No." **Motion passed 6-1.**

CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2011 Council Meeting.
- B) Resolution 1, 2012-A Resolution Designating The Town Of Crested Butte's Three Official Public Places For Posting Town Council Meetings And Other Important Items.
- C) Resolution No. 2, Series 2012 – A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District Re: Use and Maintenance of Sewer Robotic TV Camera.

Schmidt moved and Wirsing seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken with all voting "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Crested Butte resident Skip Berkshire commented about the Town's affordable housing impact fees. Berkshire, a former Town Council member, said the Council probably should have set a higher impact fee initially and raised the fee incrementally on a consistent basis. Berkshire said it's already tough for commercial businesses in Colorado because their property taxes are roughly five times the residential property tax rate. Berkshire said he has not heard much from the Council about affordable rental housing and commented that there seems to be a perception that home ownership is a "right," whereas, he believes it's a "privilege."

Berkshire said 6th Street Station project representatives have worked with the Town from the beginning of their proposed project and helped the Town craft a timeshare ordinance. He said the project is "a well-processed and integrated development" and the Council should think about what it's like to face such a large increase in fees during the development of a project.

STAFF UPDATES

Jake Jones:

- The new Big Mine Ice Arena is open. Many hockey matches are scheduled, including a tournament this coming weekend. Hockey league registration has increased from 90 participants last season to 140 this season.

Rodney Due:

- He is working on several requests for proposals pertaining to the water tank storage project and the paving project.

Molly Minneman:

- Noted her memo to Council dated December 28, 2011 inviting two councilmembers to attend an upcoming preservation conference called the "Saving Places Conference."

Eileen Hughes:

- She is still working out a few details about the Council I-pad project.

Susan Parker:

- Reminded Council to expect a call from retreat facilitator Brian Krill regarding the Council's January 9, 2012 work session/retreat.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) Special Event Application – Crested Butte Nordic Council – Alley Loop – 2 a.m. Friday February 3, 2012 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday February 4, 2012 – Streets, Alleys & Bridges.

Mayor Huckstep confirmed with the Town Clerk that proper public notice of the public hearing was given. Janelle Smiley was present representing the Crested Butte Nordic Council. Council asked staff if there were concerns about the event due to the lack of snow. Public Works Director Rodney Due said the Town will do whatever it takes to make the event happen. Town Manager Susan Parker added that the Town's Snow Plan allows flexibility due to circumstances.

Schmidt moved and Owen seconded to approve the special event application for the Alley Loop for February 4, 2012. A roll call vote was taken with all voting "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

B) Ordinance No. 25, Series 2011 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of Refuse and Recycling Collection and Disposal Agreement with Waste Management of Colorado, Inc.

Mayor Huckstep read the title of the ordinance and confirmed with the Town Clerk that proper public notice of the public hearing was given.

Town Attorney John Belkin pointed out a few typos in the proposed contract with Waste Management (WM). Council asked Belkin to revise the contract to more clearly state that opt-outs for residential trash collection are allowed (under certain circumstances). Council discussed who would be responsible for wrapping the WM Solar compactor units with the Town's branding logo. WM representative Aaron Diaz explained that WM will provide the compactors and the Town will work through WM to get the Town's logo wrapped around the compactors. In response to a question from Council, Diaz explained that if the Town wants the dumpster at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot to be relocated that WM would relocate the dumpster to another location designated by the Town. Council noted a few additional corrections/typos in the contract.

Mayor Huckstep opened the public hearing. There were no public comments. Mayor Huckstep closed the public hearing.

Wirsing moved and Mason seconded to approve Ordinance No. 25, Series 2011 with non-material amendments proposed by the Town Attorney in Exhibit "A." A roll call vote was taken with all voting "Yes." **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

A) Consideration of Request from Western Land Group for a Letter of Support for the Central Rockies (Bear Ranch) Land Exchange.

Western Land Group representative Tom Glass highlighted background information on the proposed Central Rockies (Bear Ranch) Land Exchange that he provided Council in their packets. Glass explained that Bear Ranch, which is located about 20 miles West of Crested Butte north of Kebler Pass Road, is bisected by a narrow strip of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property and the owner wants to exchange several parcels of land, including land near the Blue Mesa reservoir and property in Utah, for BLM land. Glass noted that people expressed concern about access to the Ragged Mountain Trail, so a new proposal was drafted to include a number of trail easements, construction of separate motorized and non-motorized access routes to the Ragged Mountain Trail across Buck Creek Ranch, a new public trailhead off of highway 133 and new permanent public access adjacent to BLM lands adjacent to the Town of Paonia at Jumbo Mountain. Glass said the owner of the Bear Ranch wants privacy on his ranch, especially during hunting season when bullets are flying, and is going to great lengths to try to create a successful land exchange.

Glass said Delta County, Gunnison County and the City of Gunnison all wrote letters of support for the land exchange and he is seeking a letter of support from the Town of Crested Butte

Mayor Huckstep noted that Council received several letters from residents in the Paonia area about the proposed land exchange. Huckstep pointed out that Council has gotten into "hot water" in the past when it has not adequately vetted an issue. Council noted that Parks and Recreation Director Jake Jones serves on the Gunnison County Trails Commission (GCTC) and suggested that Jones research the land exchange. Jones said the GCTC discussed the land exchange about a year ago and made a site visit to the area. Jones said it's a complex issue and it's wise for the Council not to jump into the issue without further research.

Council directed Jones to research the topic and provide a report to Council at the January 17, 2012 meeting, provided Tom Glass can attend that meeting. Jones said he would put together a list of the pros and cons of the proposed land exchange. Council agreed to get their questions about the land exchange to Jones. Council also directed staff to notify Paonia resident Ed Marston when the topic is scheduled on the agenda.

B) Consideration of Request from "Protect the Flows" for a Letter or Resolution Opposing the Flaming Gorge Pipeline.

Mayor Huckstep said he would like Council to refer the matter to the staff for a recommendation. Town Manager Susan Parker said she would consult with Lane Wyatt, the water attorney for the Northwest Colorado Council of Government, and Frank Kugel of the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District.

Jeremy Rubingh, representing "Protect the Flows," said it's important that the Western Slope send a message to the State now before the Flaming Gorge pipeline gets a foothold. Rubingh said the more tax subsidies that go into the topic, the stronger the "political will" behind the project. Parker told Rubingh she could get him on the agenda for the Western Slope Mayor and Manager's next meeting if he is interested. Parker said Mayor Huckstep can also bring the matter up at the next Colorado Association of Ski Towns meeting. Council agreed to direct staff to provide a recommendation on the topic.

LEGAL MATTERS

Town Attorney John Belkin:

- He is working with staff on a revolving loan for the water storage tank project.

- He will provide the Town Manager with an issues list concerning an Atmos Energy Franchise Agreement.
- He is working with Public Works Director Rodney Due on right of way issues and water rights issues.

COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Jim Schmidt:

- He is hoping an executive session on the 6th Street Station project will be scheduled for the February 6, 2012 Council meeting. Council concurred.
- The Kochevar Trails committee will meet on January 11, 2012 at 9 a.m.

Glenn Michel:

- The Office for Resource Efficiency will hold a retreat this month. The Board will look at the organization's goals and funding.

Aaron Huckstep:

- Council needs to be clear with Town Planner John Hess about what information the Council would like from the Affordable Housing Committee meeting on January 19, 2012. Parker explained that she spoke with the Town's affordable housing consultant Melanie Rees today. Councilmembers with questions for Rees should funnel questions through the Town Manager for cost savings and so all councilmembers are getting the same information.
- Region 10 will be hosting a meeting next week titled "Stronger Economies Together," he plans to attend the meeting.
- Noted there is an opening on the Gunnison County Library Board. The Board of County Commissioners would like to appoint someone from the North end of the Valley to the Board.
- Heard that business was good in Town over the holidays.
- Crested Butte Mountain Resort received many thanks for their snowmaking operations.


OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council discussed improving holiday lighting. Parker noted that improved lighting is a budgetary item. Council directed staff to bring the item up in the fall during budget discussions.

Councilmember Shaun Matuszewicz requested a proclamation be considered honoring Crested Butte Mountain Resort for allowing people to climb up the ski mountain. Council agreed with Matuszewicz's suggestion. The Town Manager directed the Town Clerk to work with Matuszewicz on the proclamation.

Mayor Huckstep adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.


Aaron J. Huckstep, Mayor


Eileen Hughes, Town Clerk

